

Saipan Tribune

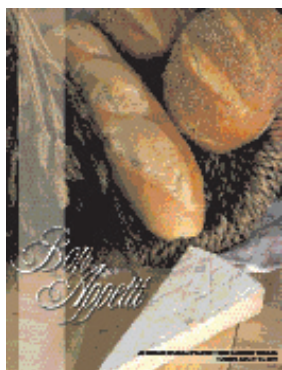
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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INSIDE



Bon Appetit

Besides its famous beaches, the CNMI is also home to a varied cuisine that is very much cosmopolitan in its range. To guide the islands' gourmands, the *Saipan Tribune* comes out today with a pullout supplement *Bon Appetit*.



CPR Training

More than 80 nonresident workers employed by Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association member-companies may now be able to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation in times of emergency following training sessions on how it's done.

Page 6



NY Protests

More than 100,000 demonstrators marched past a heavily fortified Republican convention hall on Sunday, chanting denunciations of the administration and the war in Iraq.

Page 13



World Peace

The chilling sights and sounds of war fill newspapers and television screens worldwide, but war itself is in decline, peace researchers report.

Page 18



JOHN RAVELO

CHABA'S HARVEST

These two unidentified men keep themselves busy harvesting seashells along the shoreline of Beach Road, Chalan Laulau. The onslaught of Supertyphoon Chaba last week evidently eroded beach sand to the grassy portion of the waters, making the waters shallow. The typhoon left countless clams and bleached corals scattered in the area.

Hardware stores hiked prices

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

The Attorney General's Office discovered that certain businesses on Saipan increased the prices of their commodities soon after the onslaught of Supertyphoon Chaba last week.

CNMI consumer counsel Brian Caldwell said at least two hardware

stores on the island improperly hiked their prices of construction supplies after the supertyphoon damaged hundreds of houses on the island.

These are besides the Tinian hardware store earlier reported to have also engaged in price gouging, Caldwell said.

Acting on consumers' complaints, the Attorney General's Investigative Unit dispatched personnel to verify the cases of price gouging. The AGO directed

investigators to serve cease and desist notices to the companies for them to roll back prices of construction supplies.

The hardware stores on Saipan were found to have increased the prices of tin—which is used as roofing material—as well as roofing nails and wood. One of the companies hiked the price of its 512-square-foot tin from \$23 to \$25.99—an increase of almost \$3 or some 13 percent from the pre-typhoon price.

Consumers reported these incidents on Saipan Friday, right after the AGO publicly warned retailers of possible legal action if they hiked their commodities' prices during a disaster to take advantage of the increased demand.

Caldwell refused to reveal the names of the companies as of press time, pending their possible compliance with the cease and desist orders.

See **HARDWARE** on Page 12

Songda intensifies to typhoon

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

Tropical storm Songda intensified into a typhoon yesterday as it approached the Northern Marianas, threatening several portions of the islands with damaging winds beginning possibly tonight.

The Emergency Management Office



said Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan might experience typhoon conditions beginning tonight. Songda may also bring storm conditions to Saipan and Tinian tonight until tomorrow morning.

Gov. Juan N. Babauta placed the islands of Alamagan, Pagan, and Agrihan under

Typhoon Condition III, which meant that typhoon conditions might be felt on those islands within two days. Some 33 people reside on the three islands.

The typhoon brings with it heavy rains, threatening the three islands with over six inches of rainfall, the EMO said.

The EMO also said Saipan and Tin-

See **SONGDA** on Page 12

Fuel shortage on Rota becoming acute

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

Due to rough seas, Mobil Marianas' oil tanker has not arrived to replenish Rota's fuel supply, prompting authorities to resort to rationing of two gallons per two days for private users.

For the government, Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona said that fuel sale is on a "case by case basis" so as not to hamper typhoon recovery efforts.

Manglona said the fuel supply on Rota right now would only last for two to three days.

"There is no ample supply of fuel so

I declared a local emergency here asking people to cooperate in the rationing," he said.

Manglona said Mobil's shipment is expected to arrive this week. If this does not work out, he said he would be forced to ask for the military's help to

See **FUEL** on Page 12

Public schools open except MHS, Oleai

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

All public schools in the CNMI will resume classes today except for Marianas High School and Oleai Elementary School, the government said.

The Public School System said MHS remains host to hundreds of typhoon evacuees while Oleai needs some more fixing to ensure the safety of students.

Meantime, Coalition of Private
See **PUBLIC** on Page 12



Local

Labor urges compliance with new OT rules

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

The Department of Labor is waiving the \$25 contract amendment fee for employers seeking to comply with the new federal overtime rules. Labor director Dean O. Tenorio said a number of employers

have been coming to the Division of Labor to adjust their employment contracts with workers before the new FairPay rules took effect on Aug. 23. The new federal rules guarantee overtime protection for workers earning less than \$23,660 per year. This means that all employers are required

to give time-and-a-half overtime pay to all workers with salaries of \$455 or less per week. The old threshold for overtime pay exemption was \$155 a week for executive and administrative, and \$170 a week or more for professional workers. "I don't see compliance to these new rules as an issue

yet, as a lot of employers have been coming to adjust their contracts," Tenorio said, as he urged other employers who have not made the necessary changes to comply with the new federal rules. Tenorio added that Labor is not charging employers for contract amendments made

for the purpose of complying with the overtime policy. Under the new Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, which became effective on Aug. 6, a request for an amendment costs \$25 per contract. "An amendment under this type of situation is not a voluntary act. So if employers want to adjust to comply with the law, we would not impose the \$25 charge. We're trying to encourage compliance. We don't want people to not come in because there's a fee," Tenorio said.

Although compliance to the new rules is more of a federal enforcement issue, the Division of Labor is looking forward to working with U.S. Department of Labor on the implementation of the rules, Tenorio added.

Recently, the division sent two of its supervisors for training on the new overtime rules, so they would become more aware of what to look for when reviewing employment contracts.

Tenorio also expressed his desire to conduct a joint public education campaign with federal labor representatives on the islands regarding the many changes in labor rules.

With the effectivity of the new overtime rules on Aug.

23, eligible workers may now file complaints against employers who do not pay for overtime work. Complaints, Tenorio said, may be filed with either the Federal Ombudsman's Office or the CNMI Department of Labor. He, however, said that the federal office may be quicker to respond, given the huge volume of complaints already being filed with the local Labor Department.

The newly adopted federal regulations on overtime pay give employers the option to either pay workers \$455 a week or keep salaries at their present level but entitle the employees to overtime pay for work done beyond the regular 40-hour period.

The weekly rate is determined by multiplying the current monthly pay by 12 months and dividing it by 52 weeks. This covers 40 hours of work time a week.

Anything that exceeds 40 hours must be compensated and is treated as overtime, which is "a rate not less than one and a half times the regular rate." Any contract that would provide for more than 40 hours without overtime pay is a violation of the rules.

Barcinas given one week before leaving for Hawaii

By LIBERTY DONES
REPORTER

The U.S. military has granted Dandan Elementary School principal Jonas Barcinas one week to prepare for his 18-month deployment order for Iraq.

Barcinas said that, instead of leaving last Sunday, he is allowed to stay for another week and eventually depart on Sunday, Sept. 5.

"This is precious time for me. I'm really grateful because I still have this week to do my personal errands and put my school in order," said Barcinas.

He said that he still has mixed emotions "but at least now I have peace because I'm certain when I'm leaving."

Barcinas said he intends to call for a general meeting with students and possibly with parents to say goodbye and ask for their prayer and support.

"As soldiers, we need the community's prayer at this time of conflict. What we want is peace and harmony and

protection and safety for the whole group," he said.

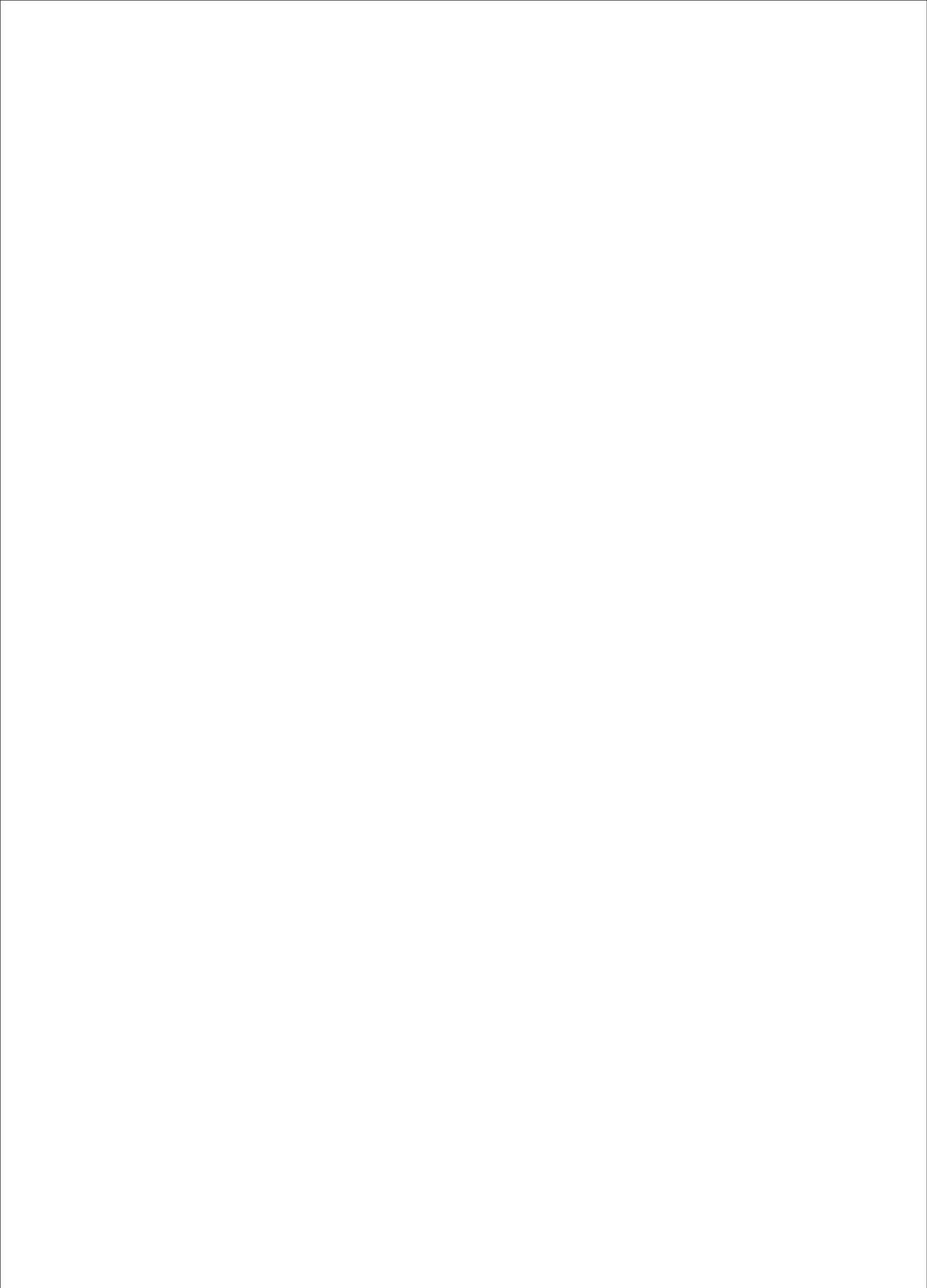
Barcinas will be joining other CNMI reservists on a six-month intensive training in Hawaii and Louisiana prior to their one-year deployment in Iraq.

Pentagon has decided to tap military reserve personnel to reinforce U.S. military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

But while other CNMI reservists had gone for training in Hawaii last month, returned, and departed again for the 18-month deployment, Barcinas had been left behind, prompting him to assume that he would not be needed. He said it was a shock to him when he received a notice from the military in Hawaii two weekends ago that he needed to pack up and leave on Aug. 29 for Iraq assignment.

Barcinas had sought written endorsement from legislators as well PSS for him to be granted a two-week travel delay.

"I'm so happy even with a one-week extension," he said yesterday.



Island Snapshots

The Saipan Tribune accepts contributed pictures of birthdays, weddings, baptisms, and other community and family events for free publication. Material submitted should be original and not copyrighted, in digital or print format. Must include a caption containing complete details (a description of the event, identities of the persons in the picture, the date, and the place), the name of the contributor, and a contact number. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to edit the caption, the date of publication and the size of the picture. Contributors can e-mail their submissions to editor.tribune@gtepacific.net. To check if contributions are received, call 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747.

Registration with FEMA first step in recovery aid

Registration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency is the necessary first step in recovery for those persons on Saipan, Tinian and Rota who sustained damage from Super-typhoon Chaba beginning Aug. 21 until Aug. 23, according to a statement from the agency.

Federal coordination officer William Lokey emphasized that “federal help can be received only after eligible persons with damage on the three islands [Saipan, Tinian, and Rota] have made the call to FEMA on the teleregistration line.”

Persons who suffered uninsured damage from the disasters should call the toll-free teleregistration number 1-800-621-FEMA (1-800-621-3362). Persons with hearing or speech impairments should call TTY 1-800-462-7585. Registered applicants can use those same numbers with questions regarding the status of their requests. The toll free numbers will be available for registrants from 7am to 8pm, seven days a week until further notice.

“It is crucial that those with disaster-related damage regis-

ter through the teleregistration number promptly so the CNMI can work with FEMA to help families and businesses get back on their feet,” said Governor’s Authorized Representative Vicky Villagomez. “Even though they have insurance, they could be eligible for assistance for some of the damage not covered by insurance.”

FEMA officials reminded applicants that before making the registration call, they should have available pen and paper to record information, a list of all occupants, a list of damage, address of the damaged property and where mail can be received, Social Security number, estimated gross household income, any insurance information and a telephone number where they can be contacted by an inspector. Interviews will take approximately 20-30 minutes. The applicants should make specific and detailed notes and photographs of the damage. Records should be kept of any out-of-pocket expenses made relative to disaster damage.

The U.S. Small Business Administration’s low-interest

loans are the primary source of disaster assistance for homeowners, renters, businesses, and non-profit organizations. Individuals registering for disaster assistance with FEMA who are referred to SBA must

pick up their SBA application at one of the Disaster Recovery Centers that will open on Saipan, Tinian and Rota within the next week.

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Depart-

ment of Homeland Security.

FEMA said that its continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery

efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

Red Cross starts handing out grants and items to evacuees

The American Red Cross-CNMI Chapter yesterday began distributing cash grants and relief items to those whose houses sustained damage due to the onslaught of Supertyphoon Chaba.

“The process has begun,” said Red Cross executive director John Hirsh.

Hirsh said cash grants were being given to those who sustained major damage on their houses. The grant amount varies from \$200 to \$1,000, depending on the extent of damage.

For those whose houses sustained minor damage, Hirsh said the Red Cross has been giving futons and cleanup kits.

The Red Cross added, however, that the Federal Emergency Management Agency would be the primary source of financial aid for those whose houses were totally destroyed by the supertyphoon.

The Red Cross has also been providing meals to hundreds of displaced residents housed in government shelters. The food is prepared by Reyes Catering and are paid for by the American Red Cross, at a cost of approximately \$10,000-\$15,000 per day, depending on the number of shelter residents, which varies daily. As of yesterday morning, it has distributed a total of 16,424 meals so far.

Hirsh disclosed that its fundraising campaign to support relief operations for Chaba victims yesterday reached a total of \$71,000.

He said Rota firm Seabridge

donated \$5,000 to the Red Cross. Another Rota company contributed \$1,000.

Before these, the Bank of Hawaii and Tan Holdings Corp. gave \$25,000 each to the Red Cross. Aqua Resort Club also donated in \$3,000, plus blankets that could be used by evacuees. The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands contributed \$5,000. Red Cross volunteers have also been soliciting support from individuals and motorists.

The Red Cross aims to raise some \$1.5 million to support its relief operations, which were expected to cost over a million dollars.

The North County Times in San Diego, California, also reported that a Red Cross volunteer from Pacific Beach is now headed to Saipan to help in relief efforts.

Marie-Clair Brien left from Lindbergh Field on Hawaiian Airlines Sunday morning, the paper said.

Brien was described as an experienced disaster volunteer, one of only two internationally qualified volunteers in San Diego, according to Gayle Falkenthal of the American Red Cross.

Quoting Falkenthal, it said there is little water in the area where the volunteers are working, making the assignment a “hardship deployment.”

Brien assisted in relief efforts last year after the Colima earthquake in Mexico. She will supervise caseworkers, Falkenthal said. *(John Ravelo)*

crees

HEROES

COMMUNITY Briefs

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 1, 2004				
DEPARTURES			ARRIVALS	
Guam-Saipan				
CGA1	6:00a	6:15a	6:25a	6:35a
CGA2	6:30a	6:45a	6:55a	7:05a
CGA3	7:00a	7:15a	7:25a	7:35a
CGA4	7:30a	7:45a	7:55a	8:05a
CGA5	8:00a	8:15a	8:25a	8:35a
CGA6	8:30a	8:45a	8:55a	9:05a
CGA7	9:00a	9:15a	9:25a	9:35a
CGA8	9:30a	9:45a	9:55a	10:05a
CGA9	10:00a	10:15a	10:25a	10:35a
CGA10	10:30a	10:45a	10:55a	11:05a
Saipan-Manila				
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CGM2	6:30a	6:45a	6:55a	7:05a
CGM3	7:00a	7:15a	7:25a	7:35a
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CGM5	8:00a	8:15a	8:25a	8:35a
CGM6	8:30a	8:45a	8:55a	9:05a
CGM7	9:00a	9:15a	9:25a	9:35a
CGM8	9:30a	9:45a	9:55a	10:05a
CGM9	10:00a	10:15a	10:25a	10:35a
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CHH3	7:00a	7:15a	7:25a	7:35a
CHH4	7:30a	7:45a	7:55a	8:05a
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CHH10	10:30a	10:45a	10:55a	11:05a
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CFJ8	9:30a	9:45a	9:55a	10:05a
CFJ9	10:00a	10:15a	10:25a	10:35a
CFJ10	10:30a	10:45a	10:55a	11:05a
Saipan-Taipei				
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CNK115	8:00a	8:15a	8:25a	8:35a
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CNK117	9:00a	9:15a	9:25a	9:35a
CNK118	9:30a	9:45a	9:55a	10:05a
CNK119	10:00a	10:15a	10:25a	10:35a
CNK120	10:30a	10:45a	10:55a	11:05a
Saipan-Norfolk				
CNK121	6:00a	6:15a	6:25a	6:35a
CNK122	6:30a	6:45a	6:55a	7:05a
CNK123	7:00a	7:15a	7:25a	7:35a
CNK124	7:30a	7:45a	7:55a	8:05a
CNK125	8:00a	8:15a	8:25a	8:35a
CNK126	8:30a	8:45a	8:55a	9:05a
CNK127	9:00a	9:15a	9:25a	9:35a
CNK128	9:30a	9:45a	9:55a	10:05a
CNK129	10:00a	10:15a	10:25a	10:35a
CNK130	10:30a	10:45a	10:55a	11:05a
Saipan-Norfolk				
CNK131	6:00a	6:15a	6:25a	6:35a
CNK132	6:30a	6:45a	6:55a	7:05a
CNK133	7:00a	7:15a	7:25a	7:35a
CNK134	7:30a	7:45a	7:55a	8:05a
CNK135	8:00a	8:15a	8:25a	8:35a
CNK136	8:30a	8:45a	8:55a	9:05a
CNK137	9:00a	9:15a	9:25a	9:35a
CNK138	9:30a	9:45a	9:55a	10:05a
CNK139	10:00a	10:15a	10:25a	10:35a
CNK140	10:30a	10:45a	10:55a	11:05a
Saipan-Norfolk				
CNK141	6:00a	6:15a	6:25a	6:35a
CNK142	6:30a	6:45a	6:55a	7:05a
CNK143	7:00a	7:15a	7:25a	7:35a
CNK144	7:30a	7:45a	7:55a	8:05a
CNK145	8:00a	8:15a	8:25a	8:35a
CNK146	8:30a	8:45a	8:55a	9:05a
CNK147	9:00a	9:15a	9:25a	9:35a
CNK148	9:30a	9:45a	9:55a	10:05a
CNK149	10:00a	10:15a	10:25a	10:35a
CNK150	10:30a	10:45a	10:55a	11:05a
Saipan-Norfolk				
CNK151	6:00a	6:15a	6:25a	6:35a
CNK152	6:30a	6:45a	6:55a	7:05a
CNK153	7:00a	7:15a	7:25a	7:35a
CNK154	7:30a	7:45a	7:55a	8:05a
CNK155	8:00a	8:15a	8:25a	8:35a
CNK156	8:30a	8:45a	8:55a	9:05a
CNK157	9:00a	9:15a	9:25a	9:35a
CNK158	9:30a	9:45a	9:55a	10:05a
CNK159	10:00a	10:15a	10:25a	10:35a
CNK160	10:30a	10:45a	10:55a	11:05a
Saipan-Norfolk				
CNK161	6:00a	6:15a	6:25a	6:35a
CNK162	6:30a	6:45a	6:55a	7:05a
CNK163	7:00a	7:15a	7:25a	7:35a
CNK164	7:30a	7:45a	7:55a	8:05a
CNK165	8:00a	8:15a	8:25a	8:35a
CNK166	8:30a	8:45a	8:55a	9:05a
CNK167	9:00a	9:15a	9:25a	9:35a
CNK168	9:30a	9:45a	9:55a	10:05a
CNK169	10:00a	10:15a	10:25a	10:35a
CNK170	10			

shell

Tobacco firm joins settlement, pays up \$78M

Vibo Corp. of Miami, Florida, has joined the Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement as a participating manufacturer, making an immediate payment of \$78 million to the MSA states, from which the CNMI will get its share as one of the original states that participated in the class action suit against tobacco manufacturers.

Vibo, which does business as General Tobacco, sells a number of cigarette brands such as Bronco, GT One, Silver and Champion. General Tobacco's Champion brand should not be confused with the Champion brand that is widely sold in the CNMI, and is produced by Fortune Tobacco Company and/or Hong Kong Tobacco Company. The later brand is produced by a non-participating manufacturer that is currently not in compliance with CNMI law.

"Under current market conditions, this agreement will be worth \$1.7 billion to all the states over the next 10 years," said attorney general Pamela Brown yesterday. "The CNMI's share of that will be around \$143,439.20. The first payment was received over the weekend."

The MSA was originally entered into between 46 states and the major tobacco companies in November 1998. Since that time, more than 40 other companies have joined the MSA.

Participating manufacturers under the MSA are bound by a wide array of restrictions on the advertising, promotion and marketing of cigarettes, including outright bans on targeting youth, outdoor advertising, and distribution of any merchandise advertising a cigarette brand.

Since the MSA took effect, youth smoking rates nationally have dropped by more than 25 percent and overall smoking has declined nearly 20 percent. Participating manufacturers also make substantial payments to the states, and as a result of yesterday's agreement, Vibo will make an immediate payment of \$78 million to the MSA states, and make full payment of its ongoing obligations in each succeeding year.

Vibo agreed to make quarterly payments of these obligations to the states.

Brown said that Vibo's decision to join the MSA is "especially significant" because the company represents by far the largest tobacco product manufacturer remaining outside the MSA. Vibo is the exclusive U.S. importer of cigarettes from Protabaco, S.A., of Bogota, Colombia, and yesterday's agreement binds Protobaco to sell all of its cigarettes in the U.S. through Vibo and in accordance with the MSA.

Attorneys general Lawrence Wasden of Idaho and Tom Miller of Iowa, co-chairs of the Tobacco Committee of the National Association of Attorneys General, which coordinates state enforcement of the MSA, said: "Vibo's agreement to join the MSA is a very important indicator of a growing recognition by companies outside the agreement that it is in their interest to observe the public health restrictions of the MSA. Persuading the largest cigarette company outside the MSA to join the agreement represents a great achievement for the MSA states."



Brown



Nonresident workers try their hands on a CPR device during the day-long first aid training at the offices of the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association.

Garment workers undergo CPR training

More than 80 nonresident workers employed by Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association member-companies may now be able to provide cardiopulmonary resuscitation in times of emergency following day-long training sessions on how it's done at the SGMA offices late last week.

The training, done in Mandarin, was an extension of the Northern Marianas Alliance for Safety and Health's Governor's 2nd Annual Health and Safety Conference, held August 17-21 at the Saipan Dai-Ichi Hotel.

Similar sessions were held during the conference, and were done in Tagalog for Filipino nonresident workers, and English.

"It's all part of our continuing commitment to ensure a safe workplace for the employees. Training them on how to give CPR and basic first aid training would go a long way as they will take whatever they learned from this session to wherever they'll be in the future," said SGMA executive director Richard Pierce.

SGMA is a founding member of the Alliance.

Alien worker found lying about job background

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

The Department of Labor has ordered a nonresident worker to depart the Commonwealth after finding that she fabricated a job background in order to be able to work for her father's business.

In an Aug. 26 order, Labor hearing officer Jerry Cody gave Rowena C. Asuncion 20 days to leave the CNMI. Her name would be immediately referred to the Attorney General's Office for possible deportation if she fails to depart within the given period.

Records showed that Asuncion arrived in the CNMI in 1995, pursuant to an entry permit to work as a waitress. To obtain the 1995 permit, she submitted a nonresident worker's affidavit that made no mention of any sales-related job that she had held.

In 2001 and 2002, she submitted affidavits to obtain a permit to work as salesperson for two different employers, listing a prior job as a salesperson for Johnny's Market in the Philippines from 1987 to 1989. But the affidavits did not list any prior sales manager job.

In September 2003, Asuncion signed yet another affidavit, this time to obtain a consensual transfer permit to work as a sales manager at her father's catering business. She listed her prior sales-related jobs for Johnny's Market in the Philippines, and Ever Trust Corp. and Antonio Camacho on Saipan, but did not mention a sales manager job.

Instead, she attached a letter from Duty Free Shoppers in the Philippines certifying that Asuncion had worked at the company as a sales manager from 1991 to 1995.

The Division of Labor denied the application, saying that Asuncion had given false or incomplete information on her current and prior affidavits.

Asuncion appealed, but failed to offer a credible explanation for her failure to list her work history as a sales manager on prior affidavits.

"Asuncion asks the hearing officer to accept that she inadvertently omitted the sales manager job on all prior affidavits, but that she is now telling the truth about working as a sales manager in the Philippines," Cody said. "Asuncion's current testimony is impeached by her own earlier affidavits, which she submitted under oath, attesting then—as she does now—that each was correct, complete, and truthful."

Further, Cody noted that Asuncion listed that she had attended a computer college during the same period in which she claims she was a sales manager.

He also questioned the credibility of the certification produced by the worker.

"Ms. Asuncion's acts of deception and/or omission...constitute ample grounds to deny her the discretionary relief of transfer to another employer," Cody concluded.

The hearing officer denied the permit transfer application submitted by Asuncion's father to employ her. He ordered the father, who is Asuncion's last employer of record, to pay for the expense of her repatriation.

SCC meeting highlights Chaba recovery efforts

Supertyphoon Chaba and its aftermath, particularly its effect on the local tourism industry, will come into focus in tomorrow's general membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

In a statement to media offices, the chamber said that a panel of speakers will address recovery efforts in the wake of the devastation wrought by Supertyphoon Chaba.

Speakers include a representative from the Emergency Management Office, Steve Hiney of the Department of Public Works, Carl Gaspari of the Small Business Administration, a representative from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Harry Blalock of KCMN/KZMI radio station.

The September general membership meeting will be held tomorrow, Sept. 1, at the Charley's Cabaret of the Pacific Islands Club. Cost is \$12 for the buffet lunch, which starts at 11:30am. The speakers are scheduled for noon.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce general meeting is open to all businesses as well as the general public. Visitors are welcome. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is the largest private business organization in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Through business leadership and membership involvement in community issues, the chamber said it continues to develop its role "as a beacon for good business" in these islands, the Pacific region and in business communities abroad.

OSHA confab 'huge success'

The Northern Marianas Alliance for Safety and Health's Governor's 2nd Annual Health and Safety Conference, held Aug. 17-21 at the Saipan Dai-Ichi Hotel, was termed a "huge success" by NMASH members, OSHA officials, Guam OSHA Consultation officials and conference participants.

NMASH attendants counted 399 total conference participants during the weeklong general sessions, training tracks in general industry, construction, and public sector, which qualified 165 attendees for OSHA training accreditation, 86 attending longshoring requirement training and an additional 63 attending CPR/ first aid training in English, Mandarin Chinese and Tagalog. Another 79 received NMASH conference certification.

After opening ceremony deliveries by CNMI Gov. Juan N. Babauta and OSHA Region IX administrator Frank Strasheim, the week's conference highlights included a fully simulated fire rescue demonstration by CNMI Department of Public Safety-Fire Division with full respiratory equipment, CNMI Public Health's presentation on food-borne illnesses, Weapons of Mass Destruction training by John Scott of AMPRO, DPS safety personnel's panels on vehicle safety, neighborhood crime watches, drug abuse and violence in the workplace.

A panel comprised of officials from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Division of Environmental Quality and Environmental Protection Agency offered Responsibilities in Safe Drinking Water, and DEQ's Dave Hodges outlined a federal grant award that creates the Green Garments Partnership between DEQ and SGMA to perform environmental audits in Saipan garment factories.

Labor Secretary Jack Teno-

rio and Ray Guerrero from the CNMI OSHA Consultation Program Office outlined its services to CNMI small businesses.

Babauta, after signing a CNMI proclamation declaring August 16-22, 2004 as CNMI Health and Safety Week at the conference's opening ceremonies, noted that change has occurred in occupational safety as a result of conflict, and that the spirit of cooperation between the public and private sectors and federal officials has created a new image for the CNMI.

The governor also announced plans to hold the 3rd Annual Governor's Health and Safety Conference as a regional conference with invitations going to all U.S. affiliated island entities, including Guam, American Samoa, Palau, the FSM, Marshall Islands and the state of Hawaii.

OSHA Region IX's Strasheim noted tremendous progress in the conference's offerings, island- and CNMI-wide safety and health situations, changes in occupational safety and health, changes in public health, and changes in infrastructure, which is critical to safety and health.

Strasheim remarked that he would hold up the SGMA Excellence 2000 Partnership members as models to any garment factories in the U.S. mainland and in Asia.

NMASH is comprised of OSHA Region IX, OTI Education Center in San Diego, the Northern Marianas College, the Division of Environmental Quality, CNMI Department of Labor, CNMI Department of Public Safety, CNMI Department of Public Works, the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association, the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas, the Saipan Contractors Association and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Nonresident workers sign up for a training on how to perform a cardiopulmonary resuscitation during the Governor's 2nd Annual Health and Safety Conference, held from August 17-21 at the Saipan Dai-Ichi Hotel. The event was organized by the Northern Marianas Alliance for Safety and Health.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DEQ warns vs illegal dumping

With the community busy cleaning up after Typhoon Chaba, the Division of Environmental Quality is warning people not to dump their trash illegally or they will be issued citations.

In a statement, the agency reminded people that the designated disposal sites and facilities for vegetative typhoon debris or household waste is the Department of Public Works' Lower Base Refuse Transfer Station and the Marpi landfill site.

"There are absolutely no

other public designated disposal sites permitted by the DEQ or DPW for dumping green waste and/or household waste," the agency said in a statement.

DEQ said that its Littering Control Enforcement Officers will be conducting routine surveillance of illegal dumpsites and will issue Litter Citations to persons illegally dumping on unauthorized areas.

"If you need additional information concerning this matter, contact DEQ at 664-8500.

KES says thank you

The acting principal of Koblerville Elementary School, Eric DLG. Evangelista, expressed his gratitude yesterday to those who helped in the clean-up efforts at the school after Supertyphoon Chaba.

Evangelista cited several lawmakers, private groups, the school's own staff and personnel, and government agencies who helped get the school back on its feet.

These include House Vice

Speaker Timoth Villagomez, Reps. David Apatang, Benjamin Seman, Joseph Deleon Guerrero; Sens. Luis Crisostomo, Thomas Villagomez, Pete Reyes; Lucky R Restaurant, Natibu, Triple J Motors; the teachers and staff of Koblerville Elementary School, Saipan Southern High School principal Peter Le'au, the SSHS JROTC and high school support staff; and Saipan Waste Management's Greg Apa and Michael Hathcock.

mobil

Business

Web turns 35, but still a work in progress

By ANICK JESDANUN
AP INTERNET WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Thirty-five years after computer scientists at UCLA linked two bulky computers using a 15-foot gray cable, testing a new way for exchanging data over networks, what would ultimately become the Internet remains a work in progress.

University researchers are experimenting with ways to increase its capacity and speed. Programmers are trying to imbue Web pages with intelligence. And work is underway to re-engineer the network to reduce spam and security troubles.

All the while threats loom: Critics warn that commercial, legal and political pressures could hinder the types of innovations that made the Internet what it is today.

Stephen Crocker and Vinton Cerf were among the graduate students who joined UCLA professor Len Kleinrock in an engineering lab on Sept. 2, 1969, as bits of meaningless test data flowed silently between the two computers. By January, three other “nodes” joined the fledgling network.

Then came e-mail a few years later, a core communications protocol called TCP/IP in the late 70s, the domain name system in the 80s and the World Wide Web—now the second most popular application behind e-mail—in 1990. The Internet expanded beyond its initial military and educational domain into businesses and homes around the world.

Today, Crocker continues work on the Internet, designing better tools for collaboration. And as security chairman for the Internet’s key oversight body, he is trying to defend the core addressing system from outside threats, including an attempt last year by a private search engine to grab Web surfers who mistype addresses.

He acknowledges the Internet he helped build is far from finished, and changes are in store to meet growing demands for multimedia. Network providers now make only “best efforts” at delivering data packets, and Crocker said better guarantees are needed to prevent the skips and stutters now common with video.

Cerf, now at MCI Inc., said he wished he could have designed the Internet with security built-in. Microsoft Corp., Yahoo Inc. and

America Online Inc., among others, are currently trying to retrofit the network so e-mail senders can be authenticated—a way to cut down on junk messages sent using spoofed addresses.

Among Cerf’s other projects: a next-generation numbering system called IPv6 to accommodate the ever-growing armies of Internet-ready wireless devices, game consoles, even dog collars. Working with NASA, Cerf is also trying to extend the network into outer space to better communicate with spacecraft.

But many features being developed today wouldn’t have been possible at birth given the slower computing speeds and narrower Internet pipes, or bandwidth, Cerf said.

“With the tools we had then, we did as much as we could reasonably have done,” he said.

While engineers tinker with the Internet’s core framework, some university researchers looking for more speed are developing separate systems that parallel the Internet. That way, data-intensive applications like video conferencing, brain imaging and global climate research won’t have to compete with e-mail and e-commerce.



FUTURE RACING CAR

A hostess wearing a special helmet sits in the cockpit of a concept car developed by Japan’s leading automaker Toyota Motor Corp. during the Future Creation Fair in Tokyo on Sunday August 29, 2004. The two-seat, four-wheel-drive Motor Triathlon Race Car, powered by electric motors built in each tires to ensure zero emissions, is Toyota’s answer to a future racing car.

Startup launching web-to-TV video service

SAN MATEO, Calif. (AP)—The promise of Internet-based video has long been hamstrung by copyright and piracy worries, slow dial-up connections, technical challenges and consumer disdain for watching blotchy videos on their home computers. But a Silicon Valley startup is tackling those obstacles, hoping to become the first major provider of cinema straight from the Internet to the living room boob tube.

“Twenty years from now, everyone’s going to be getting all their video mostly from the Internet,” says Steve Shannon, founder of Akimbo Systems Inc. “You see it happening with music. You see it happening with phone service. Video is next.”

With new video and copy-

protection technologies, and the rapid expansion of high-speed broadband connections, the time may be ripe. Akimbo hopes to tap the vast vault of programming floating on the Internet, repack-age it in DVD-quality, and bring it to a set-top box so viewers can easily choose what they want to watch from their sofa—not from their desktop.

The San Mateo-based startup, which delayed its launch date from the summer to October after it hit technical snags, appears poised to be the first to deliver an Internet-to-TV video-on-demand service. Akimbo is targeting an audience that craves more than the programming on conventional TV and cable networks.

But it’s unclear whether even

the most dedicated video junkies will be willing to buy another set-top box and pay an additional monthly subscription fee. Akimbo also faces steep competition from larger rivals in the potentially lucrative market.

SBC Communications Inc. and EchoStar Communications Corp. have teamed up to launch an online movie-on-demand service next year. Digital video recording pioneer TiVo Inc. is also working on a product that will connect Web content to the TV screen.

Video content piped into homes through the Internet does not face the spectrum constraints of broadcast television. Expanding the video catalog - “scalability” in industry jargon - is relatively easy by adding more computer servers for storage.

Florida voting under microscope again

MIAMI (AP)—Cheryl Roberts was impressed with Florida’s new voting machines in the 2002 primary, when she cast an electronic ballot for Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bill McBride. But a series of computer glitches—including startling cases of corrupted or missing data—has undermined her faith. So for Tuesday’s primary in Florida, Roberts is turning to an absentee ballot so Broward County has a paper record of her vote.

“Everyone is psychologically wary of elections this year,” said Roberts, a field coordinator for the American Civil Liberties of South Florida. “My biggest concern is whether or not vot-

ers’ intentions will be counted by elections departments.”

Whether paperless touchscreen voting terminals will accurately record people’s votes—and whether those votes could be recounted in a close election—are open questions in Florida, epicenter of the 2000 presidential election fiasco. Polls in the crucial swing state show a dead heat between President Bush and Democrat John Kerry.

On Tuesday, voters in 15 of Florida’s 67 counties will cast ballots on touchscreen computers that do not produce paper records of every ballot. Voters in those counties—including Broward and Miami-Dade—make

up more than half of the state’s registered voters.

Voter advocates promise to scrutinize election results to see if tallies match exit polls, threatening to sue over suspicious results. Computer programmers say touchscreens, which as many as 50 million Americans are eligible to use in the November election, are vulnerable to software glitches, hackers, power outages and other problems.

“I’m very worried that if the election is very, very close, the outcome will not be believed by a lot of people,” said Avi Rubin, professor of computer science and technical director of the Information Security Institute of Johns Hopkins University.

navy

STOCK

ASIAN MARKETS

ASIA 500	1,137.57	+7.72
HONG KONG	15,113.10	+113.10
SHANGHAI	1,450.00	+10.00
TOKYO	11,137.57	+7.72

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

10,196.01

+21.80

NASDAQ

1,862.09

+0.17

S&P

1,107.77

+2.58

INDUSTRY INDEX

American Motor	1,137.57
British Food	1,137.57
European Index	1,137.57
China 500	1,137.57
East	1,137.57
European Index	1,137.57
Indian Index	1,137.57
Indonesia Index	1,137.57
Japanese Yen	1,137.57
Malaysia Index	1,137.57
New Zealand Index	1,137.57
Pakistan Index	1,137.57
Singapore Index	1,137.57
South Korea Index	1,137.57
Taiwan Index	1,137.57
Thailand Index	1,137.57

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Gas price drop ends, no spike expected

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Gas prices nudged upward about half a penny in the last two weeks after dropping more than 20 cents since May 21, but another price spike is not expected due to a decline in crude oil prices, an industry analyst said Sunday.

The combined national average for all grades of gasoline was \$1.91, said Trilby Lundberg, who publishes the semimonthly Lundberg Survey. The price was up from \$1.90 on Aug. 13.

The survey, taken Friday, polls about 7,000 gas stations across the United States.

Lundberg said the slight upsurge came from an increase in crude oil, which peaked Aug. 19 at \$48.70 before falling to \$43.18.

Self-serve regular, the biggest seller, was \$1.88. Mid-grade national average was \$1.97 and the U.S. average of premium was \$2.07.

“Crude oil’s price cut will be working its way to the pump,” Lundberg said, adding that unless there were an actual loss of crude oil supply, pump prices will “be sliding down into Labor Day and beyond.”

Lundberg attributed the slip in crude oil prices to world oil supply catching up with world demand.

The spike in crude oil came when world demand showed higher numbers than expected at the same time as OPEC cut production. She said OPEC has since increased production to take advantage of higher prices.

As a result, “world demand has now been more than satisfied by the supply, and crude oil prices are now headed down,” she said.

Lundberg attributed a spike in gas prices earlier this year to new environmental protection regulation and maintenance at refineries.

Tokyo stocks open lower at 28 pts., dollar rises

TOKYO (AP)—Tokyo stocks opened slightly lower Monday as Sony and stock brokerage Nikko Cordial fell. The U.S. dollar was up against the Japanese yen.

The Nikkei Stock Average of 225 issues dropped 28.29 points, or 0.25 percent, at the start of trading. On Friday, the benchmark rose 80.26 points, or 0.72 percent.

The dollar was quoted at 109.65 yen at 9 a.m. local time Monday, up 0.21 yen from late Friday in Tokyo and above the 109.63 yen it bought in New York later that day.

Sony and stock brokerage Nikko Cordial dragged the overall market down, outweighing modest gains posted by selected banks and other high-technology shares.

Sony lost 1.3 percent shortly after the market open, while Nikko Cordial, Japan’s third largest brokerage, declined 0.6 percent.

Banks Resona Holdings and Mizuho Trust gained, while Toshiba was also higher.

In New York on Friday, shares rose after a better-than-expected gross domestic product reading.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up 21.60, or 0.2 percent, at 10,195.01.

The 2.8 percent GDP growth in the second quarter, a revision from the 3 percent preliminary figure reported in July, was a far cry from the 4.5 percent growth in the first quarter. However, the figure was slightly better than the 2.7 percent expansion economists had forecast.

Broader stock indicators were modestly higher. The Standard & Poor’s 500 index was up 2.68, or 0.2 percent, at 1,107.77, and the Nasdaq composite index gained 9.17, or 0.5 percent, to 1,862.09.

Also in Tokyo, the index of all issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange’s first section fell 0.21 point, or 0.02 percent, to 1,137.57. On Friday, the TOPIX rose 7.72 points, or 0.68 percent.

In currencies, the euro fell to \$1.2003 early Monday in Tokyo from \$1.2084 late Friday. Against the yen, the euro dropped to 131.85 yen from 132.48 yen.

Wall Street likely to be quiet during RNC

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street was poised for another quiet week as many traders and money managers prepared to leave town ahead of the Republican National Convention.

Late summer is typically a time of lackluster trading, but volumes have been extremely light recently. Aside from the usual doldrums, analysts say a good deal of money has been sidelined because investors fear the political convention could become a terrorist target.

On the economic calendar, the Conference Board was to release its monthly survey on consumer confidence Tuesday, and important August numbers were due from the Labor Department on Friday, including the closely watched jobs creation report.

After two months of anemic jobs growth, the market is looking for the data to meet or beat economists’ expectations for 150,000 new jobs.

Likely to move stocks mid-week, August sales figures are to be released by automakers and the nation’s largest retailers.

While most companies have already reported earnings for the second-quarter, a few will release results this week, including Albertson’s Inc., Zale Corp., Del Monte Foods Co. and the Mandalay Resort Group.

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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL



HANMI DONATES \$5,000

American Red Cross chair Jocelyn Deleon Guerrero receives on Saturday a \$5,000 donation from the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands for the victims of Supertyphoon Chaba. Also in photo are, from left, outgoing Aqua Resort Club general manager Mark Murai, Red Cross executive director John Hirsh, HANMI chair Ron Sablan, and World Resort Saipan general manager B.K. Park.

AGNES E. DONATO

TOC APPRECIATION

DFS president Marian Aldan-Pierce, left, and Tournament of Champions chair Rondey Klinge, right, present a Certificate of Appreciation to Seabridge Inc. Saipan manager Glen D. Palacios for contributing \$2,500 to the tournament.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Evacuees down to 700

By JOHN RAVELO
REPORTER

The number of evacuees in government shelters is now down to 700, while several other families with patients with special needs are staying at private hotels, after the Commonwealth Health Center referred their concerns to the American Red Cross.

The number of evacuees significantly went down one week after Supertyphoon Chaba destroyed and damaged more than 2,000 homes in the Northern Marianas. In the past days, the number

of evacuees hovered at a thousand.

The CNMI Emergency Operations Center said 612 of the evacuees were staying at four government shelters on Saipan. Marianas High School had 300 evacuees; Ada gym, 144; Kagman Community Center, 143; and Tanapag Social Hall, 25.

There were 68 evacuees at the Tinian gym and 20 others at the Rota Aging Center, the EOC said.

EOC public information officer Jenn Castro also said the Commonwealth Health Center referred families of "special needs" patients to the Red Cross, which housed them in private hotels.

Castro said at least 13 families were billeted at the Riviera Resort Hotel.

Meanwhile, Castro said a private doctor has been attending to patients at the Tinian Health Center, while the Rota Health Center received partial oxygen supply. Counselors from the Community Guidance Center would go to Tinian and Rota today to provide crisis counseling to Chaba victims.

Power supply on the three islands has almost been fully restored. Tinian's water supply has been fully restored, while those of Saipan and Rota are nearing that level.

AGO: Rota mayor not entitled to housing benefits

By AGNES E. DONATO
REPORTER

Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona will have to shoulder the expenses of his home repair, as the Attorney General's Office ruled that he is not entitled to be compensated for his housing expenses.

"Unlike the governor, lieutenant governor, president of the Senate, and speaker of the House of Representatives, no specific authority for housing is included within the statutorily established compensation of the Mayor," read a portion of a legal opinion signed by attorney general Pamela S. Brown and assistant attorney general James R. Stump.

The legal opinion was issued upon the request of Finance Secretary Fermin M. Atalig, and without the knowledge of Mayor Manglona.

"The Mayor of Rota's house is bro-

ken down. It was partially damaged during Typhoon Tinging. So I took it upon myself to ask the AGO for a legal opinion, in case the issue comes up," Atalig told the *Saipan Tribune* in an interview.

The secretary noted that Manglona's house in Sinapalo was concrete, but its windows and glass doors were broken during the typhoon.

In a separate interview, Manglona maintained that he was not aware that Atalig had requested a legal opinion from the attorney general. He said he is staying in his private home, and not using the accommodations provided by the government.

But he has not asked for any housing allowance, although his house, appliances, and personal belongings were damaged during Supertyphoon Chaba.

In a legal opinion dated Aug. 7—or weeks before Chaba hit the Marianas—the attorney general said the Con-

stitution limits the mayor's compensation to an annual salary of \$43,200.

The law also set a salary of \$70,000 for the governor, \$60,000 for the lieutenant governor, and \$39,300 for legislative officials. Aside from salary and compensation for reasonable allowances, the law provides housing benefits for the governor, lieutenant governor, Senate president, and House speaker.

"The express mention of one thing implies the exclusion of another, which might logically have been considered at the same time. A basic principle of construction is that language must be given its plain meaning," the AGO said. "The provision of housing is limited to [specifically] named positions established by the Legislature. The mayor of Rota is not identified for the provision of housing within this statutory authority, and thus these expenses are not allowed."

HARDWARE

From Page 1

"If they don't comply, they could be sanctioned with penalties under the Consumer [Protection] Act," Caldwell said.

If this happens, the consumer counsel said the AGO would secure a court order to compel these companies to roll back hiked prices. The AGO could also seek a court order that would impose monetary penalties on the companies.

A more severe sanction is permanent closure of the businesses, besides possible criminal prosecution.

Last Thursday, the AGO publicly warned retailers involved in price gouging, saying that the CNMI's Consumer Protection Act provides serious penalties that include permanent prohibition to engage in trade and commerce.

Citing local statute, the AGO explained that price gouging occurs when a business increases the price of goods "solely on the basis of a shortage of supply caused by natural disaster or any other emergency situation."

The supertyphoon destroyed or dam-

aged at least 2,150 houses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, based on a preliminary report by the American Red Cross. Some 323 houses got totally destroyed, 883 sustained major damage, while 944 had minor damage.

Saipan had the most number of wrecked houses, with 222 totally destroyed, 583 sustaining major damage, and 367 left with minor damage. Tinian had 28, 122, and 54, respectively; while Rota had 73, 178, and 523.

Caldwell said no case of price gouging on Rota has been reported to his office yet. He said there has been no report yet of price gouging for basic commodities such as water, rice, and chicken.

The AGO had also directed its investigators to conduct inspections of these items and other commodities such as batteries, flashlight, candles, and film.

The AGO strongly encouraged consumers to report suspected cases of price gouging at 664-2341, fax no. 664-2349, or email attorneygeneral@saipan.com. Complaints may also be brought personally before the AGO on Capitol Hill.

SONGDA

From Page 1

ian's waters might have hazardous surf tonight until tomorrow morning.

Babauta upgraded the typhoon condition declaration in the afternoon, as Songda moved closer to the Northern Marianas.

As of 7am yesterday, the National Weather Service located Songda about 625 miles east of Saipan, 680 miles east-southeast of Agrihan, 655 miles east-southeast of Pagan, and 640 miles east-southeast of Alamagan. Its maximum sustained winds reached 80 mph as it tracked west-northwest at 17mph.

By 1pm, Songda's wind strength had intensified to 85mph, while slightly slowing down as it moved west-northwest at 16mph. At this time, the NWS located Songda about 530 miles east of Saipan, 545 miles east-southeast of Alamagan, 560 miles east-southeast of Pagan, and 585 miles east-southeast of Agrihan. The NWS predicted that the

typhoon would further intensify.

The EMO said Songda's forward movement could tilt slightly to the north. If this happens, the typhoon may spare the islands. If it tilts to a westerly direction, however, the typhoon would threaten Saipan, Tinian, and Rota with a possible direct hit.

"Residents of Tinian, Rota, and Saipan should closely monitor the progress of Typhoon Songda as it moves toward the Mariana Islands," the EMO said.

Songda only had 70 mph wind strength as of 1pm Sunday, when its center was located about 933 miles east of Saipan, 940 miles east of Tinian, and 966 miles east of Rota. The NWS located the storm about 967 miles east-southeast of Pagan and 989 miles east-southeast of Agrihan. At that time, it moved west-northwest at 16mph.

A storm elevates into a typhoon when wind strength reaches at least 75mph. Once wind strength intensifies to at least 150 mph, the weather disturbance becomes a supertyphoon.

FUEL

From Page 1

airlift fuel to the island.

"The other alternative is to appeal to the military. I'll try. My job is to ensure that we have fuel here," he said.

This comes even as another tropical condition, Songda, has intensified into a typhoon, which could hit the islands this week.

"That's just very counterproductive," said Manglona.

Meantime, Mobil spokesperson Cecil Bamba-Suda said yesterday that oil tanker Golden Micronesia will again attempt to enter the Rota port this Thursday.

"The tanker didn't arrive last Friday. We expect to have it this Thursday if weather conditions permit," said Bamba-Suda.

She reiterated that Tinian and Saipan have no fuel supply problem.

Earlier, Bamba-Suda said that Mobil had reserve gasoline and diesel fuel on Rota and Tinian "for the government's emergency needs to ensure recovery efforts are not restricted."

Manglona yesterday said he was not aware of any fuel reserve on the island. "We just know that what is left is good only for two or three days," he said.

Rota was heavily hit by Supertyphoon Chaba early last week, destroying crops, houses, and several infrastructures.

The continued rough sea condition adds to Rota's vulnerability to food and fuel shortage.

Reports said that fuel companies on Guam have tried but failed to send emergency supply to Rota due to the bad sea condition.

PUBLIC

From Page 1

Schools president Scott Norman said yesterday that most private schools have resumed classes.

Norman said he received no reports of heavy damage from any of the private schools.

"Most of them are in session now," he said.

He said most private school build-

ings could not hold classes last week primarily due to lack of power.

Meanwhile, PSS said that Garapan, Tanapag, and Koblerville schools, which remained closed Monday, will resume classes beginning today.

Most families seeking temporary shelters in public schools, except MHS, had been transferred to other facilities such as the Ada Gym, Kagman Community Center, and Tanapag social hall.

Business

Volume XIV, Issue No. 244

Asia



World

tribune graduation ad

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Life & Style

Jay-Z takes four MTV Video Music Awards

By NEKESA MUMBI MOODY
AP MUSIC WRITER

An already broiling Miami had even more sizzle Sunday night as MTV brought the annual party known as the Video Music Awards to the city for the first time in the awards' 21-year history. The change of scenery for the awards, typically held in New York or Los Angeles, helped raise the decadence level at the already raucous, celebrity-soaked affair.

Jay-Z's "99 Problems," the most nominated video with six, already had four by mid-

evening. The gritty black-and-white "99 Problems," depicts his own killing as a metaphor for his much-ballyhooed retirement, which has yet to happen.

"I felt like I was trying to push the envelope," Jay-Z, dressed in a dapper white suit and hat, said as he accepted a moonman for best rap video. "That was my punishment and this is my reward."

The show kicked off with Usher getting soaked, literally, as a simulated raindrops fell on his chiseled, bare chest as he sang his hit ballad "Confessions." Later, there were more special effects

as dancers came tumbling down from the rafters of AmericanAirlines Arena, suspended by cables during his rendition of the No. 1 smash "Yeah!" with Lil Jon and Ludacris.

Then Will Smith—along with the newest member of the NBA's Miami Heat, Shaquille O'Neal—handed out the night's first major award, for best pop video, captured by the group No Doubt for "It's My Life."

Usher won his first moonman as he took best male video for "Yeah!"

"This is my first time coming up here—let me take my time with this," a beaming Usher said. "I'm so damned happy right now I don't wanna leave."

As usual, the awards were an afterthought to explosive performances and surprise cameos.

The daughters of John Kerry and President Bush made an appearance—the Bush daughters via videotape—to urge people to vote. Even the Rev. Al Sharpton made an appearance connected to voting—not for the election, though, but for the viewer's choice award.

Acclaimed rap newcomer Kanye West staged a dramatic version of "Jesus Walks," then instead of using a Chaka Khan sample for his hit "Through the Wire," brought the R&B veteran onstage to sing the real thing.

There was also an appearance by uber-twins Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen. Mary Kate, who recently was treated for an eating disorder, alluded to her ordeal before introducing Jessica Simpson.

"Thank you to everyone—you have been very supportive for the last couple of months," said Mary Kate.

It was one of the few subdued moments during the lavish night.

Usher and Simpson arrived on the red carpet not by car, but by luxury yacht. Simpson, glamorously attired in a white dress with a silver bodice, arrived with husband and "Newlyweds" co-star Nick Lachey in a 68-foot boat. Lil Jon, Ludacris and his posse—which included director John Singleton—arrived in their yacht with drinks in tow.

The biggest entrance, of course, came from P. Diddy. Dressed in a white suit and with a Mohawk haircut, he arrived in a towering yacht along with Ma\$e, Naomi Campbell and Bruce Willis.

The scene outside the arena was frenzied as the awards drew close. Performers such as Jadakiss rocked an energetic crowd while stars walked the red carpet, showing off their fashions—or lack thereof. Lil' Kim looked anything but as she almost busted out of the skimpy top of her flowing dress.

The awards cap what has al-



Jay-Z holds his four MTV Video Music awards in Miami, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2004. Jay-Z won Best Rap Video, Best Direction in a Video, Best Editing and Best Cinematography.

AP

On the red carpet at the MTV Awards

MIAMI (AP)—Usher waved to fans from the bow of a long silver and blue luxury yacht as he and other celebrities pulled up to the back of the AmericanAirlines arena in sleek boats.

Usher, who kicked off the show with a medley of his club anthem "Yeah!" and his ballad "Burn," arrived early and bragged that he had the biggest yacht. (P. Diddy, who came in a huge white boat, might quibble with that contention, however).

The boats arrived amid the backdrop of shimmering Biscayne Bay, cruise ships and smaller vessels with bikini-clad girls and shirtless guys looking on.

Usher described his look, with a white suit, white hat and canary-diamond earrings, as "simply sexy."

"My vibe is 'dinero' (Spanish for money) and my character is Tito Bond," joked Usher.

As usual, the MTV Awards were a display of all kinds of fashion styles on the red carpet, from shock rocker Marilyn

Manson's gothic black suit, silver tie and slicked hair to Ashanti's black dress with silver and gold designs that showed a good bit of cleavage.

But Ashanti wasn't alone in showing off her body. Lil' Kim showed up as well, with a silver, black and pink dress covering very little of her voluptuous figure. Christina Milian, Beyonce and Ashlee Simpson also showed a good amount of skin.

Simpson said it was the first time she worn such a sexy outfit.

"And there's no padding," she said.

For the men, it was cool colors to deal with the Miami heat. Usher and fellow hip-hop impresarios Jay-Z and P. Diddy and new Miami Heat member Shaquille O'Neal all wore white suits. P. Diddy also sported a Mohawk haircut.

Rock group Good Charlotte showed up wearing all black, while the Beastie Boys wore matching green mechanic's worksuits, "designed by Ver-

sace," joked Mike D. As for the bling-bling, long necklaces were the rage, with rapper Nelly, reggae artist Elephant Man and actress Carmen Electra among those wearing them.

Most everyone had an opinion on the sweaty weather.

Comedian Jimmy Fallon, clearly perspiring under his orange "Miami Beach" T-shirt, had some quips about the heat.

"I felt like I wrestled SpongeBob," Fallon said.

Lil' Kim—a big fan of Miami's scene—felt right at home, though, saying she often turns off her air conditioning at home.

As for Marilyn Manson, who's lived in South Florida, the blazing sun didn't bother him.

"I sold my soul, so I don't sweat," he said.

Gwen Stefani of No Doubt said she didn't make plans to come to the show until the last minute. Good thing, considering the band won for best pop video and best group video for its rebellious "It's My Life."

ready been a weeklong celebration in the city, as celebrities such as P. Diddy, Paris Hilton and R. Kelly held competing star-studded parties leading up to Sunday's festivities.

Wildness, surprises and debauchery usually mark the tone of the show. But this year was a bit tame by MTV standards. Perhaps because of the criticism

of last year's Britney Spears-Madonna kiss and the breast-flashing of Janet Jackson at the MTV-produced Super Bowl halftime show, MTV was taking precautions to prevent any additional firestorms.

For the first time, there was a several-second tape-delay of the live broadcast (the network has used an audio delay for years).

The audio delay was in heavy use during the hip-hop medley, which featured Lil Jon, Petey Pablo and Fat Joe.

The censors may have been extra-ready when comedian Dave Chapelle appeared.

He joked of his appearance: "It's the biggest mistake you made since Janet Jackson at the Super Bowl!"

wallace

Jet Li's 'Hero' tops box office in debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Hero," Jet Li's acclaimed martial-arts epic, vanquished giant snakes, serial killers and a gang of superbabies to debut as the top weekend film with \$17.8 million.

"Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid," a sequel to 1997's monster-serpent flick, opened in second place with \$13.2 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The weekend's other new movies debuted weakly. The serial-killer tale "Suspect Zero," starring Aaron Eckhart, Ben Kingsley and Carrie-Anne Moss, came in at No. 10 with \$3.4 million.

"Superbabies: Baby Geniuses 2," a follow-up to the 1999 kid flick, finished at No. 11 with \$3.3 million.

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, "Exorcist: The Beginning," tumbled to fifth-place with \$6.7 million, a steep 63 percent drop from its \$18.1 million debut.

Overall, the top 12 movies grossed \$84.7 million, virtually unchanged over the same weekend a year ago.

With Hollywood's summer season wrapping up over Labor Day weekend, the industry will finish slightly ahead of summer 2003's revenue record of \$3.9 billion. But factoring in higher admission prices, the number of tickets sold will lag a bit behind last summer's.

"Hero," nominated for the foreign-language Academy Award for 2002, is director Zhang Yimou's saga of China some 2,000 years ago. The film stars Li, Maggie Cheung, Zhang Ziyi, Chen Dao Ming, Tony



Jet Li as Nameless.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at North American theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc. Final figures will be released Monday.

1. **"Hero,"** \$17.8 million.
2. **"Anacondas: The Hunt for the Blood Orchid,"** \$13.2 million.
3. **"Without a Paddle,"** \$8.7 million.
4. **"Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement,"** \$8.1 million.
5. **"Exorcist: The Beginning,"** \$6.7 million.
6. **"Collateral,"** \$6.3 million.
7. **"Open Water,"** \$5 million.
8. **"Alien vs. Predator,"** \$4.8 million.
9. **"The Bourne Supremacy,"** \$4.6 million.
10. **"Suspect Zero,"** \$3.4 million.

Leung Chiu-Wai and Donnie Yen, a lineup of Asian superstars that distributor Miramax calls the "'Ocean's Eleven' of Chinese films."

"It obviously hit a nerve and certainly bodes well for Chinese films and foreign-language films," said Rick Sands, chief op-

erating officer at Miramax, which opened "Hero" in 2,031 theaters, unusually wide for a foreign-language movie. "We believed in the movie and went for it."

Presented in Mandarin with English subtitles, "Hero" twists through several retellings of an assassination plot against the

ruthless leader of Qin, who seeks to subjugate China's other six kingdoms and became the land's first emperor. The stories, character motivations and even color schemes change with each retelling as the film weaves toward the ultimate truth of events.

Critics raved over the cinematography, romance, lush imagery and glorious fight sequences, whose balletic grace rivals that of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," the 2000 martial-arts hit.

"We talk about the dog days of August, but maybe these are the days of opportunity for certain types of films to do well after the blockbuster onslaught of early summer," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of box-office tracker Exhibitor Relations. "This is a time when competition is a lot less fierce, and a movie like 'Hero' can take advantage of that."

Wife without wanderlust shouldn't be forced to go

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

DEAR ABBY: I usually think your advice is pretty good, but your answer to "Homebody in Norfolk, Va.," who didn't want to travel with her husband, was way off. If she doesn't like to travel, she shouldn't be forced to just because that's what her husband wants. She has every right to live her life the way she wishes, and not be coerced to do something she doesn't like just because she's married.



Dear Abby

Travel is not pleasurable to everyone. Flying is a big pain in the butt and can even be harmful to a person's health if he or she is susceptible to deep-vein thrombosis. Hotels are not like home. The beds are uncomfortable, and restaurant food for every meal can be fattening.

You should have recommended instead a session or two of counseling so both parties can get their feelings out in the presence of a neutral party. Maybe then the husband will be more accepting of his wife's preferences.

M.M. IN KINGSTON, N.Y.

DEAR M.M.: Although I didn't intend to be, you are not the only reader who felt my reaction to "Homebody's" problem was harsh. Read on:

DEAR ABBY: You are usually sensitive to problems and concerns, yet you assume that "Homebody" simply refuses to go. I sometimes become panicked just going on errands, out of town, etc. To go to faraway lands promotes whole new fears.

My advice would be for "Homebody" to explain to her husband why she doesn't want to go, and then reach a compromise. If he really wants to spend time with her, I'm sure he won't care where they go. Perhaps they could find a destination that both of them would be happy with.

It hurts to be paralyzed with fears and panic. It may not be hurting their marriage now, but without understanding, it could harm it later.

STAYING PUT IN TEXAS

DEAR STAYING PUT: Although I am all for compromise, I suspect compromise might be difficult for someone who hungers to visit the game parks in Africa, ride a gondola on the canals in Venice or walk on the Great Wall of China. Since your problem is fears and panic, please read the next letter carefully:

DEAR ABBY: I, too, was a homebody. Now I am divorced. I went to very few restaurants, complained about traffic and crowds, attended no concerts or movies. After nine years of putting up with my phobia, my wife divorced me. I attempted to save our marriage by seeking help from my doctor. He prescribed medication that saved me from becoming a hermit.

Even though my marriage is over, I am doing much better. I now venture out and do things. Through counseling and proper medication I have become a better parent to my 13-year-old son. Please urge "Homebody" to consult her doctor.

BOB IN INDIANA

DEAR BOB: Thank you for sharing your personal experience. I'm glad to know that you received effective help for your problem and are doing better.

DEAR ABBY: I think "Homebody" was gracious to suggest that her husband go with a friend or family member. I love to travel and so does my husband, but sometimes we don't share the same enthusiasm for a destination. When that happens, we find other travel companions who share our interests and everyone has a good time. This summer my husband went to Greenland while I visited Italy.

CARLA IN LIVERMORE, CALIF.

DEAR CARLA: Bon voyage!

Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

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Beckham's wife expecting third child

LONDON (AP)—Real Madrid soccer star David Beckham and his wife, Victoria, are expecting their third child in March, the couple announced Sunday.

"This is fantastic news. We are both absolutely delighted. We are planning to have the baby in Spain," the couple said in a joint statement.

Victoria Beckham, 30, a

former Spice Girl, has delivered two sons: Brooklyn, 5, and Romeo, 2.

The marriage of Britain's No. 1 celebrity couple came under strain in April when a former personal aide, Rebecca Loos, claimed she and Beckham had had a 10-day affair.

He dismissed the claim as "ludicrous" and "absurd."

Some celebs stay in NYC as GOP arrives

NEW YORK (AP)—Not all the celebrities wanted their MTV. While many of the pop culture glitterati got out of town this weekend to mark the MTV Video Music Awards in Miami, a few well-known people stuck around New York the weekend before the Republican National Convention opened.

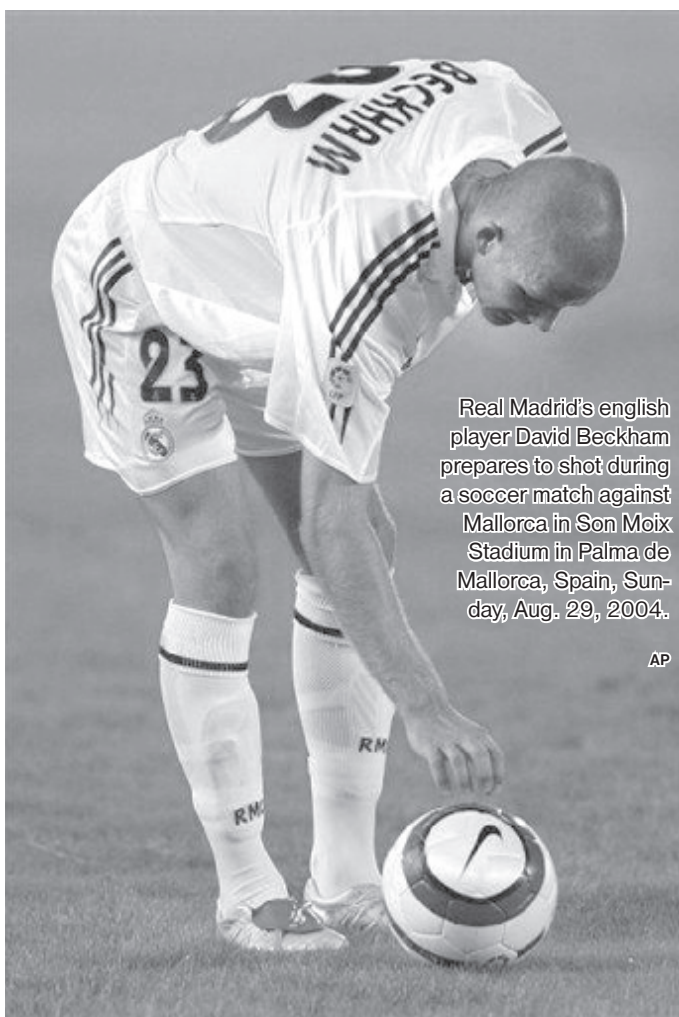
There was filmmaker Michael Moore, hanging with the protesters in the massive march around midtown Manhattan on Sunday. Actress Kathleen Turner marched for reproductive rights across the Brooklyn Bridge on Saturday morning. Comedian Margaret Cho packed them in at two shows

at the legendary Apollo Theater in Harlem on Saturday night, taking shots at the Right as she encouraged everyone to come out and demonstrate.

Not all the celebrities were protesting the Grand Old Party. Mets pitcher Al Leiter joined the throng at the media welcome festivities at the Time Warner Center.

"I've never experienced any convention," the 38-year-old left-hander said. "Here it is in our city, I'm going to go to as many events as I can."

Leiter was expected to be on hand on Tuesday when delegates are taken to Shea Stadium for batting practice.



Real Madrid's English player David Beckham prepares to shoot during a soccer match against Mallorca in Son Moix Stadium in Palma de Mallorca, Spain, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2004.

AP

Pastimes

Shannon Essenpreis wins Jr. Miss crown

MOBILE, Ala. (AP)—Texan Shannon Essenpreis was crowned America's Junior Miss after belting out a Broadway showtune and soaring through interviews with her "bubbly" personality.

Though Essenpreis was crowned Saturday night, television viewers won't see it until July as producers switch to a "reality TV" format. PAX Network camera crews followed the 50 contestants for two weeks leading up to Saturday's contest.

Essenpreis was among five finalists who were given on-the-spot questions tailored to their individual interests. She was asked how she would use the enthusiasm she's displayed as her school's mascot into her planned career as a broadcast journalist.

"I was so nervous," she said after the show. "And the question was so long that by the end of it, I wasn't sure what they were asking me."

Her answer? She'll report on the positive aspects of life while maintaining her personal optimism.

After the contest, Heisman Trophy winner and Junior Miss judge Herschel Walker said he was particularly impressed with Essenpreis' charm and "bubbly" character in her interview last week. Essenpreis won a \$50,000 scholarship.



Singh wins Buick Open, outlasting Daly

By LARRY LAGE
AP SPORTS WRITER

BUICK GRAND BLANC,

Mich. (AP)—Vijay Singh outlasted John Daly with a 5-under 67 Sunday to win the Buick Open with a 23-under 265 for his fourth victory of the year and 19th of his career. Daly, vying for a second win in one year for the first time, finished a stroke back after shooting a 66 and bogeying the 18th hole.

Tiger Woods started the day three strokes behind Singh, and pulled within a stroke while

shooting a 66. He finished at 21 under, two strokes behind the winner and tied with Carlos Franco (67) for third.

Woods will look to snap his streak without a major at nine in two weeks at the PGA Championship.

Defending champion Jim Furyk, who shared the second-round lead with Singh, finished tied for sixth at 17 under after shooting a 68 on Sunday.

The final round turned into a virtual match-play between Singh and Daly, one of the top golfers in the world against one of the most popular.

Singh's bogey at 18 created an opportunity for Daly to force a playoff, but Daly was unable to take advantage of the break.

Singh is just the third two-time Buick Open champion, and the first since Julius Boros won at Warwick Hills a second time in 1967.

Entering the tournament, Singh had 10 top-10 finishes. But since winning consecutive tournaments three months ago, he has just two top-five finishes and was tied for 28th at the U.S. Open and 20th at the British Open.

The Fijian played well this week after changing his putter,



Vijay Singh of Fiji watches his tee shot on the eighth hole at the Buick Open at Warwick Hills Golf & Country Club in Grand Blanc, Mich., Sunday, Aug. 1, 2004.

going back to a standard putter after using a long one for 2 1/2 years. He also said earlier in the week that he stopped worrying about chasing Woods in the world rankings.

Woods is No. 1 in the world rankings, and Singh is third.

Singh won his seventh straight tournament when he at least shared the lead after 54 holes, dating to the 2002 Shell Houston open.

With Singh, Daly and Woods atop the leaderboard entering the final round, it was a Buick

Open unlike any other.

A sea of fans waiting at the first tee roared when Daly was introduced and just politely clapped for Singh, who seemed to get a kick out of the rock-star like reception for Daly.

As they walked down the first

fairway, Singh patted Daly on the back and both chuckled and shook their heads, fans hooted and hollered best wishes toward Daly in a preview of what was to come over the next four hours.

Singh was wild off the tee at times, but made a handful of shots over and around trees. His first drive landed in the 10th fairway, but unfazed by his blind shot over trees, Singh scrambled well enough to start with a birdie.

And Daly did, too.

Daly made an eagle from 142 yards at the par-4 No. 2, causing the crowd to erupt with applause as he pulled into a tie at 19 under.

He took the lead with a birdie on the third hole and kept a one-shot lead until Singh's birdie at No. 12 knotted them up at 22 under.

Singh went ahead by a shot with a birdie at 14—to reach 23 under—and was able to maintain a one-shot edge the rest of the way.

He got into trouble on the final hole, but his second shot out of the rough landed on the green close enough to set up two-putt, which was just enough to win because Daly missed a makable par putt.

Lions sign first-round pick Roy Williams



ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP)—Receiver Roy Williams agreed to a five-

year contract with the Detroit Lions on Sunday.

The seventh overall pick in the draft out of Texas, Williams was the lone Lions player who did not report when the team began training camp Friday. He remained in the area while the deal was being negotiated, however, and arrived at camp Sunday afternoon.

He spent the remainder of the day in orientation meetings and video sessions.

"We were able to get this done in about 48 hours," Detroit chief operating officer Tom Lewand said. "We're happy we were able to get it done and get it done quickly."

Williams will be in uniform Monday when the Lions resume practice.

Terms of the contract were not disclosed but the five-year deal is a year shorter than those given to quarterback Joey Harrington and receiver Charles Rogers, the top picks in the 2002 and '03 drafts, respectively. Harrington was taken third overall, while Rogers was the second overall selection.

Williams caught 70 passes for 1,079 yards and nine touchdowns as a senior at Texas last season. He finished his career with 241 catches, 3,866 yards and 36 touchdowns, all of which were school records.

The team hopes he and Rogers can team to give Harrington a tall and speedy receiving tandem to help spark a club that has compiled the NFL's worst record in the last three seasons.

By ROY KAMMERER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

COLOGNE, Germany (AP)—Larry Brown wants to move on. The U.S. Olympic basketball coach said Sunday that the suspension of Allen Iverson, LeBron James and Amare Stoudemire is forgotten. He would rather focus on a tough road trip against some of Europe's top teams leading up the Athens Olympics.

Brown refused to let Iverson, James and Stoudemire play in the team's 96-71 win over Puerto Rico on Saturday, punishment for the trio showing up late for a team meeting.

"It won't happen again. They'll play the next game and some will start," Brown said.

The U.S. squad arrived in Germany on Sunday, shook off the jet lag and held its first practice.

And Brown is having some second thoughts about whether this series of exhibitions, which includes a game against world champion Serbia and Montenegro, is ideal for his team.

That's a switch from last year, when he was eager for the trip after the U.S. team romped through Olympic qualifying in Puerto Rico with a 10-0 record. Since then, however, veterans from that team, including Mike Bibby, Tracy McGrady and Ray Allen, have bailed out.

Now, Brown is drilling the youngest U.S. Olympic team, with an average age of 23.6 years, since NBA players were first allowed into the 1992 Games.



James, Dwyane Wade and Carmelo Anthony may be talented, but they are newcomers to basketball abroad. The team played together just one week, and many players will need a crash course in the different rules of the international game.

Brown thought the team had put all that behind them in Puerto Rico.

"We thought that team would be playing. We thought we had laid the foundation," Brown said. "Now I think maybe we can use the practice."

The U.S. team faces Italy on Tuesday, followed by Germany and Dirk Nowitzki on Wednesday. Then it plays two more away games against Serbia and Montenegro and Turkey, whose NBA players include Utah's Mehmet Okur.

"I hope this trip will competitively toughen us up," Brown said.

Sunday's practice, during which Brown worked on some plays, was a closed session in a sweltering small gym. Only a handful of reporters were let in to watch a late shootaround and talk to the players.

That will be different against Italy and Germany. The NBA stars, often still called "The Dream Team" abroad, have awakened huge interest.

From across the world, the

German organizers of the exhibition game said more than 500 media sought accreditation for the two games, with around 350 gaining approval. That's about a 100 more than followed the U.S. team's training camp in Jacksonville.

While handling the growing hoopla, Brown will have to get his young team used to the international game's wider lanes, the different calls from referees, the shortened 3-point line, along with schooling them in some simple plays.

All that will be needed to offset the American's disadvantage, which proved so costly at the world championships in Indianapolis, where it was beaten three times and finished sixth.

While the U.S. squad has three short weeks to forge a cohesive team, other world powers like Argentina and Serbia and Montenegro have players who have been on the court together for years.

Not that the Americans and their young stars are worried.


Anthony has already boldly predicted a gold medal, while James said he isn't concerned about upholding the American's 24-0 mark since NBA players were allowed in the Olympics.

"There's no pressure at all," James said. "If we get better and do our job, we have a great chance of accomplishing our goals."

U.S. coach Larry Brown, right, sends in a play with guard Stephon Marbury during an Olympic tuneup against Puerto Rico, Saturday, July 31, 2004, in Jacksonville, Fla. The U.S. team won 96-71.

Marathoner finishes third after attack

By BOB BAUM
AP SPORTS WRITER

 **ATHENS, Greece** (AP)—A defrocked Irish priest bolted from the crowd and grabbed the marathon leader about three miles from the finish Sunday. The Brazilian runner Vanderlei de Lima wound up with the bronze—and a special award for sportsmanship—and the former priest was arrested.

Italy's Stefano Baldini surged ahead with two miles to go to win the gold medal, and American Meb Keflezighi finished a surprising second. The 29-year-old Keflezighi, who emigrated from the African nation of Eritrea at age 10, was the first American to medal in the men's marathon since Frank Shorter's silver in 1976.

Deena Kastor won the bronze in the women's marathon a week ago. It is the first time the United States has won two medals in the 26.2-mile race at the same Olympics.

Cornelius Horan, 57, was wearing a green beret, a red kilt and knee-high green socks when he attacked de Lima, knocking him into the crowd. De Lima was able to recover and finish, but was passed by two runners about a mile after the incident.

"I was scared, because I didn't know

what could happen to me, whether he was armed with a knife, a revolver or something and whether he was going to kill me," de Lima said.

"I don't know if I would have won, but things would have been different," he said. "After that, it was hard to get my rhythm back. It really distracted me."

The Brazilian track federation protested the result and sought a duplicate gold medal for de Lima, but while the jurors expressed sympathy they said they couldn't change the result. Brazil said it would appeal to sports' international arbitration panel.

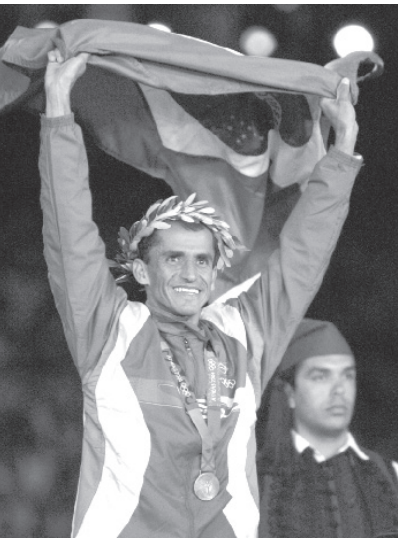
"I'm not going to cry forever about the incident, although it broke my concentration," de Lima said, "but I managed to finish and the bronze medal in such a difficult marathon is also a great achievement."

The International Olympic Committee said it would present de Lima with its Pierre de Coubertin medal in recognition of his "exceptional demonstration of fair play and Olympic values."

"I think the Olympic spirit prevailed and I prevailed. I was able to show that determination wins races," de Lima said after receiving his bronze medal at the Olympics' closing ceremony.

"What prevailed here was the Olympic spirit. Never mind the result of the appeal. I'm very happy to have won this medal."

Athens police sources identified the



AP
Bronze medalist Vanderlei Lima of Brazil raises the Brazilian flag after receiving his medal for the men's marathon during the closing ceremony of the 2004 Summer Olympics in the Olympic Stadium in Athens, Sunday, Aug. 29, 2004

intruder as Cornelius Horan, who has been barred from practicing as a priest for the past decade. He once published a book called "A Glorious New World Very Soon To Come" that predicted the world was about to end.

The attacker had a piece of paper attached to his back bearing the message: "The Grand Prix Priest Israel Fulfillment of Prophecy Says the Bible."

In July 2003, Horan, in a costume

similar to Sunday's, ran onto the track in the middle of the British Grand Prix and stayed there for more than 20 seconds, forcing Formula One racers traveling at more than 200 mph to swerve around him. He was carrying a sign that said: "Read the Bible—the Bible is always right."

British authorities said Horan also attempted a protest on Wimbledon's Center Court during a rain break, and tried to disrupt cricket and rugby matches.

On Sunday, Horan jumped from the crowd, ran across the street and grabbed de Lima. A policeman following the leader on a bicycle jumped off and helped free the Brazilian.

De Lima, whose lead had been slowly shrinking, was able to get back into the race. But he lost several seconds as a result of the attack, and eventually was overtaken by Baldini and Keflezighi. De Lima finished third.

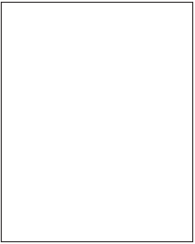
When the incident occurred, dozens of flag-waving Brazilian fans at the stadium that marked the marathon's end were watching the front-runners on a giant screen. They suddenly went silent and the huge crowd gasped.

The police sources said Horan arrived in Athens just before dawn Sunday aboard a British Airways flight.

Horan was to be taken to a prosecutor on Monday, the sources said. It was unclear if he would be charged or remanded for psychiatric evaluation.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

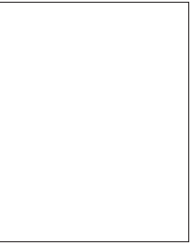
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